DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 413 927 IR 056 759

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TITLE A Citation Analysis of Master's Level English Theses Submitted to the Department of English-Kent State University, 1985-1995.
PUB DATE 1997-07-00
NOTE 60p.; Master's Research Paper, Kent State University.
PUB TYPE Dissertations/Theses (040) -- Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Citation Analysis; Evaluation Criteria; Graduate Study; Higher Education; *Information Sources; *Masters Theses; Sex Differences; Tables (Data)
IDENTIFIERS *Kent State University OH

ABSTRACT

This paper is a citation analysis of 16 Master's theses which were submitted to the Department of English-Kent State University from 1985 to 1995. Each citation from the 16 theses was analyzed along the following criteria: gender of citation author; format of citation (book, article within book, journal article, thesis, dissertation); nature of citation (text, criticism, biography, other); date of publication; and place of publication (country). Results were tabulated for each individual thesis, aggregate totals for each of the five criteria, and along two clusters: (1) American themed, British themed, and other, and (2) those authored by male students and by female students. Findings indicated that more male authored citations were utilized; most sources were books, articles within books, and journal articles; criticism was used most, followed by text, other sources, then biography; most items used were published in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada; and most items were published during 1950-1989. Data is shown in 20 tables. (Contains 33 references.) (Author/AEF)

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ED 413 927

A CITATION ANALYSIS OF MASTER'S LEVEL ENGLISH THESES SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH-KENT STATE UNIVERSITY-1985-1995

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the
Kent State University School of Library Science
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Library Science

by

Mark J. Slutz

July 1997

IR056759

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Master's Research Paper by

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B.A., Malone College, 1984

M.L.S., Kent State University, 1997

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a citation analysis of 16 Master's Theses which were submitted to the Department of English-Kent State University from 1985 to 1995. Each citation from the 16 theses was analyzed along the following criteria: gender of citation author (male or female); format of citation (book, article within book, journal article, thesis, dissertation, etc.); nature of citation (text, criticism, biography, other); date of publication; and place of publication (U.S., Canada, United Kingdom, Continental Europe, etc.).

These results were tabulated for each individual thesis, aggregate totals for each of the 5 criteria, and along 2 clusters; one, where the theses were clustered into American themed, British themed, and other, and two, where the theses were clustered into those authored by male students and by female students.

Findings include that more male authored citations were utilized; most sources were books, articles within books, and journal articles; criticism was used most, followed by text, other sources, then biography; most items used were published in the U.S., U.K., and Canada, and most items were published during 1950-1989.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The information seeking behavior of scholars and researchers has been the subject of considerable study, and much debate. However, researchers within certain academic disciplines have come under closer scrutiny than others. Information seeking among those in the natural science disciplines has been studied in some depth, while that of those in the social sciences and humanities less so (Case 1986).

The earliest studies concerned the natural sciences. C.P. Snow's lecture "The Two Cultures", published in 1959, provided the spark which led to further studies of information seeking among scientists. Other significant studies from this era were conducted by A. Aims (1965), Herbert Menzel (1964), and Andrew Robertson (1974).

It was the pioneering research on information use in the social sciences conducted at Bath University, England from 1968 to 1971 which provided the foundations and catalyst for further research on the use of information services. Maurice Line (1973) led these extensive studies, and theorized that those in the social sciences possibly sought and gathered information in ways quite different than those in the natural sciences. For example, social scientists use books and journals about equally, while natural scientists rely more heavily upon journals. Also, natural scientists gravitate toward newer sources to a greater degree than social scientists (Hurych 1986).

By contrast, humanities scholars and their information use is a phenomenon which has

been little studied, despite the fact that this group represents some of the heaviest users of library and information resources (Hopkins 1989). Some studies have been done, notably by John Budd (1986) who analyzed the references from the 1981 MLA International Bibliography, and Madeleine Stern (1983) who analyzed references from the Arts and Humanities Citation Index with regard to specific authors and literary movements.

Nevertheless, research and published studies in the area of humanities user patterns appear to be limited. Wiberly and Jones (1989) describe the knowledge of information seeking and use by humanist scholars as "still in the exploratory stage." There is clearly a need for more research in this area.

The implications for libraries are enormous; which materials should be kept, and which are "safe" to discard? The user patterns which have been documented appear to indicate that natural scientists use more recently published materials than humanities scholars. Should different acquisition and deacquisition (weeding) policies be used for science materials and humanities materials? The available research indicates that humanities scholars rely more on books than natural scientists. Should this color the distribution of library funds within the book budget? In a sense, the very core of a library's policies could be affected by significant patterns of information seeking and use by persons from differing fields of study.

Thus, the question at hand (what are the information seeking and information use patterns of humanities scholars) appears to be a valid one.

Purpose of the Study

Hopkins (1989) notes that while published user studies in a specific area can be of great value, sometimes a local study is necessary to determine the actual user patterns and needs on the local level. With this as the underlying rationale, the purpose of this study was to determine the information use patterns of Masters level English students at Kent State University - Kent, Ohio. The citations analyzed were those of the theses submitted to the Department of English -Kent State University (K.S.U.) from 1985 through 1995.

The purpose of the analysis was to determine which sources were actually utilized by these students with regard to the following: gender of the citation author, material format (book, journal article, dissertation, electronic database, etc.), nature of the source (text, criticism, biography, or other), date of publication, and country of publication .

The theses were analyzed along two additional dimensions. They were divided into two groups based upon the gender of the authors. They were also divided into three categories based upon the nature of the thesis: topics dealing clearly with American Literature, topics dealing clearly with British Literature, and topics which did not clearly fall into either of these categories.

Limitation of Study

This study was limited to studying the citation patterns of Masters Level English students at K.S.U. who had theses accepted during the 1985 through 1995 academic years. The citations were studied with regard to format of item (monograph, serial, dissertation , thesis, unpublished article/other), nature of item, date of item, language of item, and overall proportion of dates and types of items, both within each thesis, and relative to the entire sample studied.

II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Marcia Pankake gives an overview of the implications of humanities research for the librarian in her 1991 article. She makes note of four published citation studies by Richard Heinzkill (1980), Madeleine Stern (1983), John Cullars (1985), and John Budd (1986). Points she particularly notes from these citation studies are that humanities scholars make frequent use of old materials. In particular, if an old author, such as John Milton, is studied, many items cited will also be old, often predating 1900. Also, while "cores" of journals have been identified, particularly in Budd's study, this core represents a significant percentage of all citations (38.6%), but a very small percentage (6%) of total journal titles utilized. She states that many bibliographic sources, particularly computerized, are created more along a model from the natural sciences than the humanities.

Among the immediate implications for libraries: since humanities scholars often use very old sources, and often use card catalogs/online public access catalogs to locate known sources, as libraries move strongly to online public access catalogs, retrospective conversion is essential. Many older items are still not traceable in a machine-readable form, yet these very items are needed by humanities scholars. David Farrell (1991) shares Pankake's concern about the lack of retrospective conversion. He also notes that at this point in time, most of the new technologies in libraries, particularly those computer related, are more slanted toward the natural sciences and social sciences than the humanities, thus denying humanities scholars

access to relevant materials.

The concerns of Pankake and Farrall are born out by several of the more specific citation studies. These studies notes the preponderance of older materials among the citations of humanities studies, particularly items pertaining to literary scholarship.

Face-to-face interviews were combined with a mailed questionnaire in a study by Richard Hopkins (1989). His study corroborated other studies in some of its findings: humanities scholars rely on printed information to a large degree, rather than on informal communications with other scholars, bibliographical tools are important when seeking information, and that these scholars often work alone.

One approach to study materials use is to analyze the items requested, rather than items actually used. Robert Broadus (1987) analyzed the item requests of research fellows at the National Humanities Center (N.H.C.). All fellows in this study wrote and published prolifically. The N.H.C. has only a minimal reference library; the vast majority of materials used are requested via intra library loan. Broadus analyzed the request slips from 79 of the research fellows over a two year period to determine types, ages, etc. of materials studied. Broadus found that about 60% of the items requested were books, 31% journals, the rest various other item types (dissertations, etc.). Seventy-six % of items requested were published in 1950 or later. Broadus also analyzed the requests according to the Library of Congress Classification (L.C.C.) Number assigned to each item requested. He found that items were surprisingly scattered among various L.C.C. disciplines, not just literature and closely related

areas.

Stern (1983) performed a citation analysis on journal articles using three particular writers (John Milton, Henry James, and W.H. Auden), and three literary movements (symbolism, existentialism, and structuralism). Her goal was to determine the relationship between the time span between the author's production and the journal articles and the age of the references that the articles cited. Her analysis determined that with regard to individual writers, as a writer becomes less contemporary, more secondary sources citing the author become available. Also, much critical material pertinent to a contemporary author is found in journals. As a writer becomes less contemporary, monographs pertaining to the writer become more frequently cited. Lastly, most secondary material utilized by humanist literary scholars were published within thirty years of the article itself.

Stern found that when literary movements were concerned (symbolism, existentialism, and structuralism), the three movements studied were within 100 years of each other, and there was little impact pact on either source items or references. However, articles about the older movements tended to have more journal articles cited, while younger movements relied more upon books. Overall, however, books were the preferred format. Most items cited, both books and journal articles, were published within twenty years of a movement's height of activity.

The citations from the "American Literature" section of the 1981 MLA International Bibliography were analyzed by John Budd in his 1986 study. He analyzed citations by form,

class of material, age, language, and subject of the reference. Citations were divided into books, book articles, journal articles, and dissertations. The majority of the articles were books, followed by journals, then other items. With regard to age of materials utilized, Budd discovered that old materials (items published over 50 years ago) were used primarily by writers of books and journal articles.

Thus, it is possible to study the information seeking behavior of Humanities scholars via a number of different approaches, citation analysis being among them. Hopefully, this study will shed more light on this problem.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized citation analysis methodology, which studies the use rate of library materials and information sources by an analysis of the citations (endnotes, bibliographies, etc.) of various documents. This information was studied to determine user patterns, or how the library user searched for information, and what types of materials and information were actually utilized.

The bibliographies/reference lists from the Masters Theses submitted to the Department of English at K.S.U. from 1985 through 1995 were analyzed. A complete citation for each thesis analyzed is found within the Reference List of this paper. The analysis was conducted via both each individual thesis, and the overall picture which emerged. The following were noted for each thesis: year of imprint, nature of the topic, and gender of the thesis writer. Each citation was analyzed along the following criteria: gender of the author, format (book, journal article, dissertation, etc.), nature (text, criticism, biography, or other), year of copyright or imprint, and country of origin. Data were tabulated and analyzed. The results are given, then elaborated upon.

All relevant theses exist in two copies within the K.S.U. libraries. Each is catalogued with the appropriate call number; one is shelved within the general circulating collection, and circulates on the same basis as other materials, the other is housed in the Department of Special Collections, a non-circulating department.

IV. FINDINGS

There were 16 theses analyzed. The oldest imprint was 1986, the most recent 1995. Four were dated 1994, three were dated 1993, and two were dated 1988. There was one thesis for each remaining year. Seven were authored by male students and nine by female students. Seven titles dealt with topics which were clearly related to British Literature, and six with American Literature. Three fell into neither category; one dealt with underground publishing, and the other two dealt with Margaret Atwood, a Canadian author.

There were 938 citations in all. Citations per thesis ranged from a low of 15 to a high of 186. Average number per thesis was about 57.8. A complete bibliographic citation for each thesis in this study is found within the Reference List at the end of this study.

The first overall category studied was gender of citation author. Each citation was tabulated as being authored by a male, female, or undetermined. Multiply-authored documents had each author tabulated separately. For example, a citation containing 2 male authors was tabulated as 2 males. A citation to an item co-authored by a male and a female was tabulated as 1 male, 1 female. The results for each individual thesis are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

GENDER OF CITATION AUTHOR BY THESIS

N=938

	Male		Female		Undetermined	
Wright	49	73.1	10	15.0	8	11.9
Sramcik	45	93.8	2	4.2	1	2.0
McConaghy	26	52.0	21	42.0	3	6.0
Allen	6	17.6	27	79.4	1	2.9
Fazzino	49	90.7	4	7.4	1	1.9
Grabill	23	100	0	0	0	0
Druesdow	25	32.0	51	65.4	2	2.6
Vornberger	20	45.4	24	54.6	0	0
Britton	16	30.2	34	64.1	3	5.7
Rosky	178	90.3	16	8.1	3	1.6
Sobieska	97	89.8	7	6.5	4	3.7
Harris-Fein	88	87.1	13	12.9	0	0
Jackson	30	85.7	5	14.3	0	0
Locke	11	73.3	3	20.0	1	6.7
Berardinelli	41	83.7	5	10.2	3	6.1
Icard	17	94.4	1	5.6	0	0

The results from Table 1 have been aggregated into Table 2.

TABLE 2

GENDER OF CITATION AUTHOR

N=974

	Number	Percentage
Male	721	74.0
Female	223	22.9
Undetermined	30	3.1

As can be seen from Table 2, the overwhelming majority of citations were authored by males. It is not apparent if this is reflective of the materials available, or of deliberate user patterns.

This finding was consistent among all 16 papers in that the vast majority of the citations were produced by authors who were clearly male or female. Relatively few citations were of multiple authorship, either overall, or within an individual paper. Treatment of these multiple author citations was discussed earlier. A few citations were of indeterminate authorship. This was usually due to the fact that the citation gave only initials for the author's first name; in some cases, research yielded a full name for the author, and the citation was

readily classified. In other cases, further research yielded no further information. More exhaustive analysis and research techniques could possibly lower this number in a replication of this study.

When citations were grouped into three clusters by the nature of the topic (British, American, and other), there were some differences, as seen in Table 3. British themed papers had the highest percentage of male authored citations at 83.6%, and other topic themed papers were split almost evenly between male (46.1%) and female (46.1%). American themed papers fell in between, with 76.2% male and 22.8% female.

TABLE 3

GENDER OF CITATION AUTHOR BY THESIS TOPIC

N=974

	Male		Female		Other	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
American	364	76.2	109	22.8	5	1.0
British	286	83.6	43	12.6	13	3.8
Other	71	46.1	71	46.1	12	7.8

The citations were also studied when divided into two groups: those from theses authored by males, and theses authored by females. The breakdown by this criteria yielded

very similar results, as can be evidenced from Table 4.

TABLE 4

GENDER OF CITATION AUTHOR BY GENDER OF THESIS AUTHOR

N=974

	Male		Female		Undetermined	
	No.	Perc.	No.	Perc.	No.	Perc.
K.S.U Male	289	81.2	52	14.6	15	4.2
K.S.U. Female	432	69.9	171	27.7	15	2.4

All citations were classified according to one of the following formats: book, article within book, journal article, thesis, dissertation, lecture/address, unpublished paper, electronic mail/world wide web, electronic database, newspaper article, other/could not be determined. Results for individual theses are given in Table 5.

TABLE 5

FORMAT BY THESIS

N=938

	Wright		Sramcik		McConaghy		Allen		Fazzino		Grabill	
	Num.	Percent	Num.	Perce	Num.	Percent	Num	Percen	Num.	Percent	Num	Percent
Book	18	27.7	28	59.6	32	66.7	18	52.9	37	69.8	20	87.0
Art./Book	3	4.6	18	38.3	2	4.2	12	35.3	12	22.6	1	4.3
Journal	27	41.5	0	0	13	27.1	4	11.8	4	7.5	1	4.3
Thesis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dissertation	0	0	0	0	1	2.1	0	0	0	0	1	4.3
Unpub Paper	1	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Email/WWW	12	18.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newspaper	4	6.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeterm.	0	0	1	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 5--Continued

	Druesdow		Vornberger		Britton		Rosky		Sobieska		Harris-Fein	
	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent	Num	Percent	Num.	Percent	Num	Percent
Book	25	32.9	32	76.2	27	52.9	60	32.6	49	46.7	55	59.8
Art./Book	9	11.8	2	4.8	10	19.6	55	29.4	11	10.5	18	19.6
Journal	31	40.8	7	16.7	14	27.5	64	34.2	44	41.9	19	20.7
Thesis	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.1	0	0	0	0
Dissertation	4	5.3	1	2.4	0	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0
Unpub Paper	4	5.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Email/WWW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newspaper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeterm.	2	2.6	0	0	0	0	2	1.1	1	1.0	0	0

TABLE 5--Continued

	Jackson		Locke		Berardinelli		Icard	
	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent.
Book	16	47.1	14	93.3	26	53.1	13	72.2
Art./Book	2	5.9	1	6.7	14	28.6	5	27.8
Journal	16	47.1	0	0	8	16.3	0	0
Thesis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dissertation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unpub Paper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Email/WWW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newspaper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeterm.	0	0	0	0	1	2.0	0	0

The findings from Table 5 have been aggregated in Table 6.

TABLE 6

FORMAT OF CITATION

N=938

	Number	Percentage
Book	471	50.2
Article/Book	169	18.0
Journal Article	257	27.4
Thesis	5	0.5
Dissertation	8	0.9
Unpublished Paper	5	0.5
E-mail/World Wide Web	12	1.3
Newspaper	4	0.4
Undetermined	7	0.7

The most commonly cited format was a book; this format accounted for 50.2% of all citations. When book and article within book were combined, they totaled 68.2%, slightly more than 2/3, of all citations. This dwarfed all other formats.

There were a substantial number of journal articles cited - 27.4%. When journal

articles, books, and articles within books were combined, this accounted for 95.6% of all citations. All remaining formats (dissertation, unpublished papers, newspaper articles, etc.) Combined totaled only 4.3% of citations.

When the theses were clustered into American, British, and other topics, the findings remained very similar. Again, the vast majority of citations, in all three groups, consisted of books, articles in books, and journal articles, as can be seen from Table 7.

TABLE 7

FORMAT BY THESIS TOPIC

N=938

	British		American		Other	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Book	199	59.4	208	46	63	42
Article/Book	58	17.3	87	19.2	25	16.7
Journal Art.	74	22.1	138	30.4	45	30
Thesis	0	0	5	1.1	0	0
Dissertation	1	0.3	7	1.5	0	0
Unpub. Paper	0	0	4	0.9	1	0.7
Email/WWW	0	0	0	0	12	8
Newspaper	0	0	0	0	4	2.7
Undeterm.	3	0.9	4	0.9	0	0

Table 8 presents the data as sorted by male authored and female authored theses. As the table shows, there were only slight differences in overall user patterns when comparing male and female thesis writers.

TABLE 8

FORMAT BY GENDER OF THESIS AUTHOR

N=938

	Males		Females	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Book	192	56.1	278	46.7
Article/Book	56	16.4	114	19.1
Journal Article	73	21.3	184	30.8
Thesis	0	0	5	0.8
Dissertation	2	0.6	6	1.0
Unpub. Paper	1	0.3	4	0.7
E-mail/WWW	12	3.5	0	0
Newspaper	4	1.2	0	0
Undetermined	2	0.6	5	0.8

TABLE 9

NATURE OF CITATIONS BY THESIS

N=938

	Text		Criticism		Biography		Other	
	Num.	Per.	Num.	Per.	Num.	Per.	Num.	Per.
Wright	0	0	15	23.1	1	1.5	49	75.4
Sramcik	9	19.1	28	59.6	4	8.5	6	12.8
McConaghy	4	8.3	33	68.8	3	6.3	8	16.7
Allen	12	35.3	18	52.9	0	0	4	11.8
Fazzino	10	18.9	19	35.8	8	15.1	16	30.2
Grabill	7	30.4	10	43.5	1	4.3	5	21.7
Druesdow	15	19.7	33	43.4	1	1.3	27	35.5
Vornberger	5	11.9	22	52.4	4	9.5	11	26.2
Britton	15	29.4	29	56.9	0	0	7	13.7
Rosky	21	11.2	141	75.9	13	7.0	11	5.9
Sobieska	17	16.2	79	75.2	2	1.9	7	6.7
Harris-Fain	45	48.9	41	44.6	3	3.3	3	3.3
Jackson	9	26.5	21	61.8	1	2.9	3	8.8
Locke	3	20.0	11	73.3	3	6.7	0	0
Berardinelli	3	6.1	38	77.6	2	4.1	6	12.2
Icard	3	16.6	13	72.2	2	11.2	0	0

Each citation was classified by nature of the item: textual material, literary criticism, biographical source, or other/undetermined. Findings for this were given in Table 9. Table 10 aggregates the data from Table 9.

TABLE 10

NATURE OF CITATIONS

N=938

	Number	Percentage
Text	177	18.9
Criticism	552	58.8
Biography	46	4.9
Other	163	17.4

Overall, findings were that 58.8% of all citations were criticism, 18.9% text, 17.4% other/could not be determined, and 4.9% biography.

One particular difficulty was noted when these citations were classified; while most citations fit readily into the appropriate category, the Wright thesis presented some problems. This thesis dealt with underground publishing; numerous citations were privately published newspapers, magazines, and journals. These items were impossible to verify through any standard bibliographic tool, making it extremely difficult to distinguish text from source

material. Also, this thesis contained many citations for electronic mail messages/world wide web pages. For lack of a better alternative, these were classified as other. Due to these factors, overall results may be somewhat skewed due to the inclusion of this thesis' data into the overall data set.

Overall, other citations represented a remarkable variety of sources. They ranged from history to statistics to the hard sciences, and almost every conceivable point in between. It was quite difficult to break them down any further than other, because they represented such a wide array of items.

Table 11 clusters the results by overall theme of the theses; British, American, and other.

TABLE 11

NATURE BY THESIS TOPIC

N=938

	British		American		Other	
	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.
Text	49	14.6	102	22.5	27	18.0
Criticism	221	66.0	268	59.3	62	41.3
Biography	22	6.6	23	5.1	1	0.7
Other	43	12.8	60	13.2	60	40.0

In the British and American categories, the overall picture remained the same; most citations were criticism, followed by text, biography, and other. In the other category, however, there was a different distribution; there were almost as many other items as criticism; here, other items played a much larger role. This difference was at least partially explained by the inclusion of the Wright paper.

Table 12 clusters the papers by male and female thesis authors. The results are very similar to the overall totals, showing little difference in overall user patterns by males and females with regard to nature of citations.

TABLE 12

NATURE BY GENDER OF THESIS AUTHOR

N=938

	Males		Females	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Text	71	20.8	107	17.9
Criticism	178	52.0	373	62.6
Biography	16	4.7	30	5.0
Other	77	22.5	86	14.4

Thus, while some obvious anomalies are present, overall, usage patterns when examined from the perspective of nature of citations, shows remarkable consistency in overall usage, both by individual thesis, and by overall category.

Every citation was classified by date into one of the following categories: prior to 1800, 1800-1899, 1900-1949, 1950- 1969, 1970-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-1991, 1992-1993, 1994-1995, and Undetermined. This was a very straightforward process, the citation being fitted into one of the aforementioned categories by the imprint given in the citation itself. Table 13 gives the results by individual thesis. These results are then aggregated into Table 14.

The following results became apparent: overall, most citations fell into 3 categories: 1950-1969, 1970-1979, and 1980- 1989. Each contained 21.9, 23.8, and 34.5 percentage of all citations, respectively (see Table 14). Together, this time span accounts for 80.2% of all citations. As can be seen from Table 13, every other time span contained some citations, though far less then the time frames encompassing 1950-1989. Least utilized were extremely old (prior to 1900) and extremely new (after 1990).

Table 13--Continued

	Druesdow		Vornberger		Britton		Rosky		Sobieska		Harris-Fein	
	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percen	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent
<1800	0	0	0	0	1	2.0	0	0	1	1.0	0	0
1800-99	1	1.3	1	2.4	0	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0
1900-49	7	9.2	2	4.8	2	3.9	41	21.9	6	5.7	0	0
1950-69	10	13.2	5	11.9	3	5.9	66	35.3	31	29.5	16	17.4
1970-79	19	25.0	9	21.4	12	23.5	27	14.4	30	28.6	42	44.6
1980-89	30	39.5	24	54.8	28	54.9	52	27.8	35	33.3	34	37.0
1990-91	5	6.6	2	4.8	5	9.8	0	0	0	0	0	0
1992-93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1994-95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeter.	4	5.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.9	1	1.1

Table 13--Continued

	Jackson		Locke		Berardinelli		Icard	
	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent.
<1800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1800-99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1900-49	7	20.6	1	6.7	1	2.0	1	5.5
1950-69	6	17.6	7	46.7	12	24.5	12	66.7
1970-79	10	29.4	5	33.3	22	44.9	1	5.5
1980-89	11	32.4	2	13.3	11	22.4	4	22.2
1990-91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1992-93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1994-95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeter.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 13--Continued

	Jackson		Locke		Berardinelli		Icard	
	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent.	Num.	Percent.
<1800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1800-99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1900-49	7	20.6	1	6.7	1	2.0	1	5.5
1950-69	6	17.6	7	46.7	12	24.5	12	66.7
1970-79	10	29.4	5	33.3	22	44.9	1	5.5
1980-89	11	32.4	2	13.3	11	22.4	4	22.2
1990-91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1992-93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1994-95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeter.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 14

DATE OF PUBLICATION

N=938

Date	Number	Percentage
<1800	2	0.2
1800-99	7	0.7
1900-49	81	8.6
1950-69	205	21.9
1970-79	223	23.8
1980-89	324	34.5
1990-91	30	3.2
1992-93	20	2.1
1994-95	39	4.2
Undetermined	7	0.7

Clustering citations into the American, British, and other categories holds to the aforementioned pattern. As can be seen from Table 15, the 1950-1989 time frame contains the most citations, with the exception of other, which includes the Wright thesis. This thesis utilized many unconventional sources, particularly electronic mail messages. These were tabulated by the date given in the citation, which presumably was the date received. These

were all very recent (1992 and later). Also, many of the privately published items used in this thesis were dated very recently. Every other thesis dealt with a more traditional literary topic, and utilized more traditional sources. Thus, the inclusion of the Wright thesis partly explains the slant of the data in the other category.

TABLE 15

DATE OF PUBLICATION BY THESIS TOPIC

N=938

	American		British		Other	
	No.	Percent.	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
<1800	0	0	1	0.3	1	0.7
1800-99	3	0.7	4	1.2	0	0
1900-49	57	12.6	22	6.6	2	1.3
1950-69	110	2402	89	2606	6	4.0
1970-79	115	25.3	86	25.4	24	16.0
1980-89	156	34.4	115	34.3	53	35.3
1990-91	8	1.8	10	3.0	12	8.0
1992-93	0	0	6	1.8	14	9.3
1994-95	0	0	1	0.3	38	25.3
Undeter.	5	1.1	2	0.6	0	0

Subdivision by male and female thesis authors is shown in Table 16. The overall pattern held true except for Males using 1994-1995 sources; again, this particular category is heavily influenced by the Wright paper.

TABLE 16

DATE OF PUBLICATION BY GENDER OF THESIS AUTHOR

N=938

	Males		Females	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
< 1800	0	0	2	0.3
1800-99	4	1.2	3	0.5
1900-49	7	2.0	74	12.4
1950-69	62	18.1	143	24.0
1970-79	96	28.1	127	21.4
1980-89	104	30.4	220	36.9
1990-91	11	3.2	19	3.2
1992-93	18	5.3	2	0.3
1994-95	39	11.4	0	0
Undetermined	1	0.3	6	1.0

Thus, while most of this study's citations were not found to be extremely old (i.e. prior

to 1900), relatively few were new (more recent than 1990). Even the oldest two papers - Berardinelli and Icard- still used a goodly number of sources which predated their papers by at least five years. Beradinelli bears a 1987 imprint, and Icard a 1986, yet each contained 78% of citations predating 1980 (see Table 13).

Each citation was classified according to country/region of origin: United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia/New Zealand, Continental Europe, Latin America, Africa, Oceania, and Could Not be Determined. This information is given in Table 17. Only the Wright paper contained a substantial number of indeterminate citations; most underground publications cited contained no publishing information whatsoever, and they were simply not noted in standard bibliographic verification tools (WorldCat, Ulrich's Periodical Directory, OhioLink, etc.). Also, there were a large number of electronic mail messages cited; due to the nature of this medium, classification was impossible.

Table 18 aggregates the information given in Table 17.

Table 17--Continued

	Druesdow		Vornberger		Britton		Rosky		Sobieska		Harris-Fein	
	Num.	Percent	Num	Percent.	Num	Percent.	Núm	Percent.	Num	Percent.	Num	Percent.
U.S.	76	100	40	95.2	40	78.4	179	95.7	24	22.9	88	95.7
U.K.	0	0	0	0	3	5.9	3	1.6	67	63.8	1	1.1
Canada	0	0	2	4.8	8	15.7	0	0	5	4.8	1	1.1
Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.1	3	2.9	0	0
Aus./N.Z.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.9	0	0
Asia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0
Undeterm.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.8	2	2.2

Table 17--Continued

	Jackson		Locke		Berardinelli		Icard	
	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.
U.S.	33	97.1	14	93.3	37	75.5	18	100
U.K.	0	0	1	6.7	8	16.3	0	0
Canada	0	0	0	0	2	4.1	0	0
Europe	1	2.9	0	0	1	2.0	0	0
Aus./N.Z.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeterm.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.0

Table 17--Continued

	Jackson		Locke		Berardinelli		Icard	
	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.
U.S.	33	97.1	14	93.3	37	75.5	18	100
U.K.	0	0	1	6.7	8	16.3	0	0
Canada	0	0	0	0	2	4.1	0	0
Europe	1	2.9	0	0	1	2.0	0	0
Aus./N.Z.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undeterm.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.0

TABLE 18

PLACE OF PUBLICATION

N=938

	Number	Percentage
United States	728	77.6
United Kingdom	132	14.1
Canada	32	3.4
Europe	11	1.2
Australia/New Zealand	3	0.3
Asia	1	0.1
Undetermined	5	0.5

Clustering into certain categories was the rule when analysis was done along this criterion. Virtually all citations were American and British. Other countries/areas were simply not represented at all, or were represented to a very minimal degree. There were no citations originating in Latin America, Africa, and Oceania. Therefore, these three categories do not appear in the tables. Citations originating in Australian/New Zealand, Europe (exclusive of the British Isles), and Asia were present to a small degree, particularly Europe.

With regard to all citations, far and away the largest place of publication was the United States. Citations originating in the United States totaled 77.6%. In descending order, next most frequently occurring places of publication were the United Kingdom (14.1%), and

Canada (3.4%). The following areas appeared, albeit at insignificant numbers: Europe-1.2%, Australia/New Zealand and Asia- < 1%. 3% of the citations were of undetermined origin (see Table 18).

Table 17 notes some interesting variations on the overall trends; Only one thesis contained less than half American citations; the Sobieska paper contained 22.9% American, 63.8% British, and 5% or less each of Canadian, Australian/New Zealand, European, and Could not be determined. This paper dealt with a British literary topic. Of all the papers analyzed, this was the single highest concentration of British citations. No other paper even approached this high a concentration of British citations. The McConaghy paper was a distant second with regard to British citations, and it was only 42% British. It, like Sobieska, dealt wit a British literary topic..

Overall, Canadian citations comprised only 3.4%overall. However, in two papers, they represented a significant portion of citations: the Allen paper contained 38.2% Canadian citations, and the Britton paper 15.7%. Both of these papers dealt with Margaret Atwood, a Twentieth Century Canadian writer (see Table 17).

When the citations are clustered by British, American, and other (Table 19), this essentially reiterates what has been stated earlier concerning American and British citations. While both American themed and British themed theses utilize American citations to the greatest degree, British themed papers utilize British citations to a much, larger degree than either American or other. Citations for other countries/areas remain about the same, wit the

exception of Canada. This is due to the inclusion of the two papers dealing with Atwood (see previous paragraph).

TABLE 19

PLACE OF PUBLICATION BY THESIS TOPIC

N = 938

	American		British		Other	
	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.	Number	Percent.
U.S.	437	96.3	189	56.4	103	68.7
U.K.	6	1.3	123	36.7	3	2.0
Canada	3	0.7	8	2.4	21	14.0
Europe	5	1.1	6	1.8	0	0
Aus./N.Z.	0	0	3	0.9	0	0
Asia	1	0.2	0	0	0	0
Undeterm.	2	0.4	6	1.8	23	15.3

Table 20 clusters citations by gender of thesis author. There were no discernable differences in usage patterns.

TABLE 20

PLACE OF PUBLICATION BY GENDER OF THESIS AUTHOR

N=938

	Males		Females	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
U.S.	282	84.4	469	77.9
U.K.	43	12.8	92	14.9
Canada	4	1.2	28	4.7
Europe	3	1.0	8	1.3
Aus./N.Z.	1	0.5	2	0.3
Asia	0	0	1	0.5
Undetermined	1	0.5	4	0.7

V. - CONCLUSIONS

This study indicates that there are some very definite user patterns apparent among Master's level English students at K.S.U..

Most citations utilized in this study were authored by males (74.0% vs. 22.9% for females, 3.1% undetermined). It is uncertain if this reflects deliberate choices on the parts of the thesis writers, or is simply a reflection of available resources.

Regarding format, the most commonly cited items were books, articles within books, and journal articles. Books and articles within books totaled 68.2% of all citations, and journal articles 27.4%. Together, these three sources accounted for 95.6% of all citations. All remaining sources accounted for less than 5% of citations. All sources of an electronic nature were email messages and/or web pages. All electronic sources were only 1.3% of all citations, and these were all concentrated in one paper-Wright. This paper was also different in essence than the 15 other papers in the study. Thus, at the point in time studied (1985-1995), it appears that most users in this study were relying primarily on print sources.

The nature of the citations was primarily literary criticism; this constituted 58.8% of all citations. Used to lesser degrees were text (18.9%), other sources (17.4%), and biography (4.9%). Criticism appears to have played a major role in these theses, being utilized more than all other sources combined.

Most sources used moderately old; they were dated between 1950 and 1989. This time

frame contained 80.2% of citations. Even the most recent theses used older sources to some degree; within English, sources which are somewhat old were of some usefulness to this user group.

This use of older sources leads to the issue of retrospective conversion to electronic access. The trend in libraries is to provide access to materials, both in catalogs and indexes, via electronic rather than paper format. However, these electronic sources often go back only a few years, and simply do not include the older materials. Since humanities scholars rely heavily upon these older materials, it is an issue of how they will have access to these items if the information is not retrospectively converted to machine readable format.

Most sources originated in the U.S. and U.K. Together, these two countries of origin accounted for 91.7% of sources utilized. Canada was represented by 3.4% of sources. It appears that this user group relied primarily on American and British sources.

At this point, it appears safe to draw two conclusions regarding this user group; traditional print sources have certainly not outlived their usefulness as source material, and simply because an item is moderately old does not prevent it from being useful. Possible implications for libraries are that while electronic and non-print sources are obviously useful, traditional materials still play a large role in some types of scholarship. Also, within English, materials which are older are still used by researchers. Thus, while libraries are currently experiencing a technological revolution, traditional materials are still heavily used by at least some user groups.

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